

SOME THINGS TO DO

MONITORING:

Trees

Habitats

Pond Levels

Pond Life

Butterfly Scrub

Birds

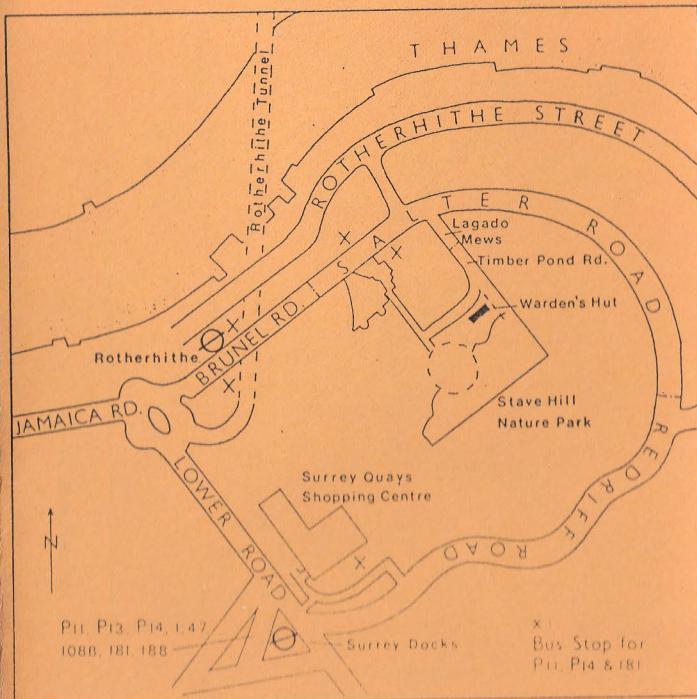
PLANTING THE HERB TRAIL

BUILDING HABITATS

BIRD WATCHING

POND DIPPING

HOW TO FIND US



BUSES: P11 P14 181

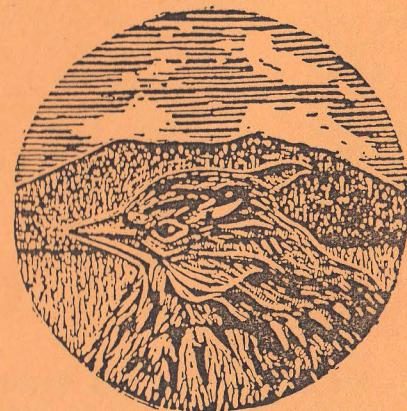
TUBES: SURREY DOCKS

ROTERHITHE

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BOOKINGS CONTACT:
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237 9175 STAVE HILL NATURE PARK,
TIMBER POND ROAD, ROTHERHITHE, LON-
DON, SE16 1AG.

THE TRUST FOR URBAN ECOLOGY

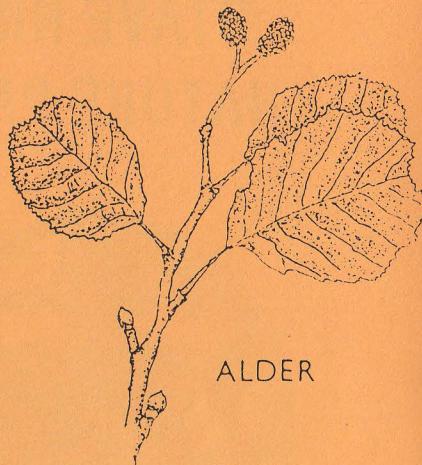
STAVE HILL NATURE PARK



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

YOUNG WOODLAND

The mound is rich in catkins. Most of the trees, such as alder, poplar, aspen, and willow, have them, as does the shrub, hazel. The most resilient and thriving tree has proved to be the alder. Under the tree is a mixture of shrubs and plants through which bramble climbs its way towards the light. The leaves, buds, flowers and fruits of these plants attract many animals, especially birds and insects, to this area, providing their essential requirements.

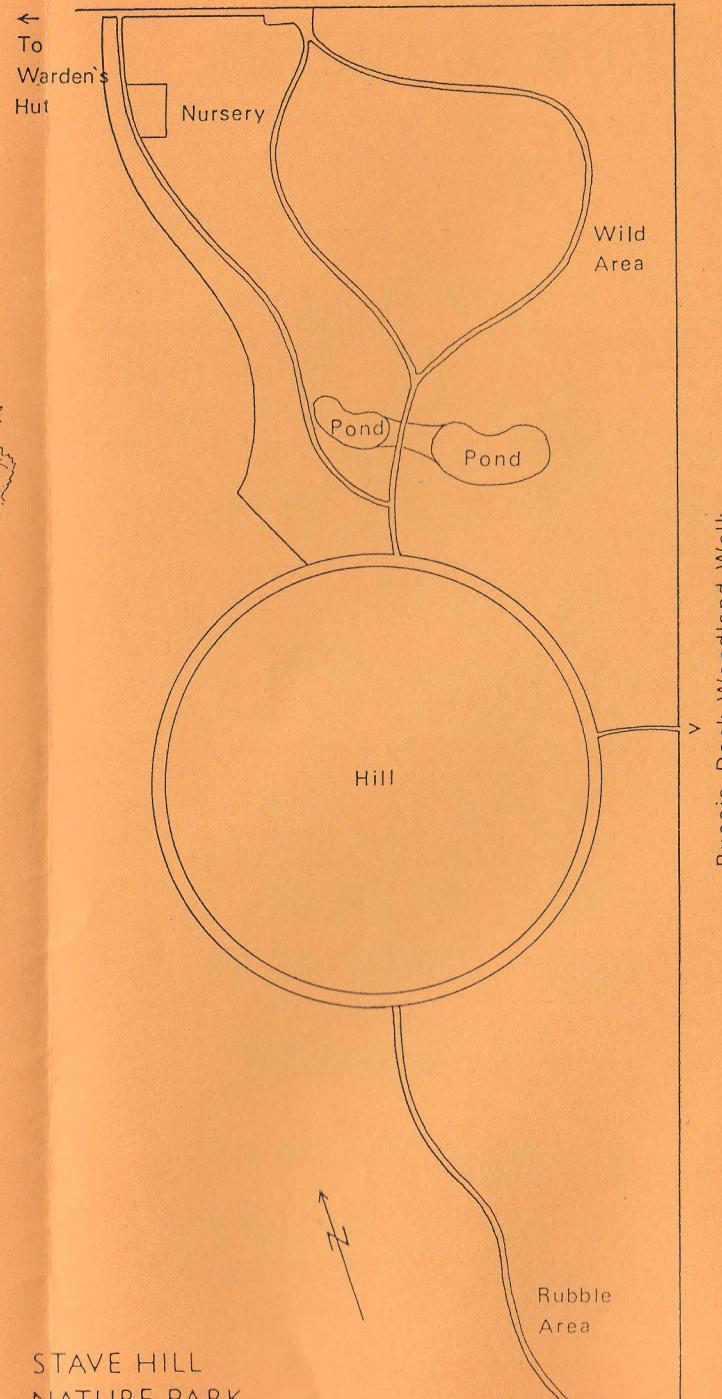


ALDER

THE PONDS

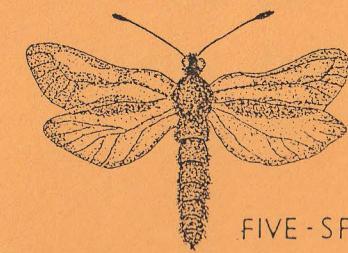
The ponds are artificial, but this doesn't bother the wildlife. Ponds such as these, fringed by water plants, offer a feast of wildlife. The plants provide food, shelter, nesting material and places for egg-laying for a variety of animals, including birds, insects, and amphibians who in turn attract more animals as sources of food themselves. Ponds also provide all kinds of habitats in, on, around and under the water, a dynamic system of interrelating wildlife depending to different degrees on this liquid environment. Frogs and Toads, for instance, use the pond for breeding in early spring. After this the adult frogs stay close to water while adult toads are more adventurous, often travelling several miles, but always returning to the same pond to breed. We should, therefore, think very carefully before filling in any ponds. Many species rely on them, species that disappear when the ponds disappear.

STAVE HILL
NATURE PARK



GRASSLAND

An area which is a mixture of grasses, flowers and fungi. This attracts insects of all kinds and other animals which prey upon them such as frogs and kestrels. The flowers, like the sainfoin of the pea family, and the knapweed (or hardhead) of the daisy family, are prolific producers of nectar and great favourites of nectar-feeding insects such as the bumble bee. A flower meadow like this is also rich in leaf-eating insects, such as grasshoppers. This is a good area for butterflies and the Burnet Moth, a flying cyanide capsule, producing its own hydrogen cyanide and dangerous if swallowed. It does, however, carry its personal built in warning system of distinctive red blobs on shiny metallic black wings.



FIVE-SPOT BURNET

RUBBLE AREA

Rocks, stones, bricks and general debris form a harsh and transient environment for wildlife to colonise. Only a few plants are able to capitalise on such an unsettled, dry, almost soilless, area. The plants that succeed, however, are colourful, the sort of opportunist species that ironically beautified bomb sites after the Second World War. Buddleia was introduced from China in the early years of this century by the Edwardians who shared the Victorians' enthusiasm for exotic plants. Rosebay willow herb is also known as Fireweed, partly because of its bright red colour, partly because of its ability to thrive after infernos such as the Great Fire and the Blitz. These species are popular feeding stations for insects, especially butterflies.